

THE
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL
JOURNAL.

VOL. X.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1834.

[NO. 12.]

ON LUMBRICI: THE CAUSES OF THEIR PREVALENCE; AND THE
TREATMENT, AS PRACTISED IN THE MAURITIUS.

BY ROBERT DYER, M.D., ASSISTANT SURGEON TO THE FORCES.

THIS complaint is nearly universal in the Mauritius: the most healthy, as well as the weak and sickly, seem equally obnoxious to its production. Nor are the patients often aware of the presence of those animals until they see them discharged. No age or sex is exempt.

In the black population, and especially the slaves, it is nearly their only complaint; and in such numbers are the lumbrici produced, that I have frequently been disgusted by seeing them crawling from the anus and mouth at the same time. One black literally (after having taken the usual medicine exhibited on those occasions) brought me his hat full, which he assured me he had passed very shortly before.

The symptom most generally complained of is griping pain in the belly, which is always enormously large and hard, with constant desire to eat. Frequently there is vomiting, and irregular action in the bowels, headache, convulsions, spasms, and various hysteric symptoms. To assign a cause for so great a tendency to worms, I am at a loss. Nor does their origin appear more clearly accounted for by writers on this subject. The general opinion is, that they are derived from external sources, such as water, rice, &c.; but it appears to me probable, that their existence depends very much upon the condition of the individual, whereby the system is rendered more susceptible of their production; and this susceptibility and condition of the individual will be greatly influenced by the nature of his food. I have somewhere seen it stated, that individuals fed without salt, or where little of it enters into the aliment, are more liable to this complaint than those who make a liberal use of it; and that a recurrence to its use freely will destroy the tendency, and act as a cure. The following facts certainly tend to corroborate these observations; and as they are not single and isolated, but gathered from numerous cases, and by many intelligent individuals, they are deserving of credit.

I have before stated, that the colored population, and especially the slaves, are incessantly and universally subject to worms. This class of persons seldom or never eat salt: they are fond of it, as they are of anything of which they are deprived, or which is not within their reach, and will endeavor to procure it if they can; but, as it never forms part of the ration of the slave, from its being an article of import, and consequently expensive, and the slaves themselves having little or no means of obtaining it, they seldom see it. Among the convicts (who are natives

of India, and condemned to work on the roads for life), and the government slaves, both of whose rations very much resemble that of the European soldier, such a disease is of comparatively rare occurrence; and I perfectly well remember contrasting the rarity of this complaint in a black corps, of which I had medical charge, with the great frequency of it in the slaves of the planter. Farther: many of the planters who had been induced to allow salt to form part of their slaves' rations, have informed me, that after continuing it for some time, they had discontinued it, and that very soon the old complaint became prevalent, and obliged them either to revert to its use or supply its place by some other expedient. They all admit its advantage, but all complain of its expense. This may appear strange, that so trifling an addition to the ration, and one the benefit of which they admit, should be objected to, on the score of increasing so materially the annual expense of maintenance; but I think this will readily be conceded, when it is recollected that on many of the plantations to which I at this moment allude, the number of slaves exceeded 500. To obviate this difficulty—keeping in view economy, and still maintaining the health of the slave—many have adopted the plan of administering salt as a medicine; this they give in the quantity of a tablespoonful in half a pint of water to every slave, regularly every Saturday after work. And I am assured by those who have adopted this plan—and they are persons on whom perfect reliance may be placed—that the object has been most perfectly fulfilled; and they moreover state, that they believe their slaves to be possessed of more vigor and bodily strength, and altogether more healthy, since they have made use of this simple expedient.

By this digression, I have been by anticipation led to the mode of cure, as salt, in liberal doses, is not only a preventive, but nearly as active a means of cure as any of the remedies in common use. I have frequently made trial of salt, and have never had occasion to rob it of its merit, by being disappointed in the result. I have seldom, however, used it where the patient had much bodily suffering: only in cases where the general health appeared good, but with symptoms sufficiently indicative of the presence of worms.

The mode of administering it was in solution—a tablespoonful in half a pint of water the first day three times, and following this up the next morning by an ounce of castor oil; after this, a tablespoonful every night, so long as worms were produced.

There is yet another remedy, I may safely say specific, as a vermifuge, which is very generally used in the Mauritius, and with never-failing success in its effects;—I allude to the "*Lait de papaya*," which is an exudation of a white glutinous fluid, from the green fruit of the tree "*Carica papaya*," procured by scratching or scoring the fruit with a knife. In botanical works its vermifuge qualities are mentioned, though cursorily; but I do not observe it noticed in any of the medical works that treat on worms: yet, from what I have seen of it, it appears to me that it ought to stand higher in the class of vermifuges than any medicine known, not only as being certain in its effects, but, from all the inquiries I have made, I have never been able to learn that an over-dose has produced any unpleasant consequences. As yet, however, there is

a difficulty which must be removed before its use can be general, but which the chemist, were his attention directed to it, would soon obviate ; —I allude to the difficulty in procuring it, excepting in countries where the tree grows, as well as the preserving it for any length of time, undiminished in its properties.

The tree is of rapid growth and extremely prolific, and bears fruit in eighteen months. It is tolerably well described in Curtis's Botanical Magazine (second series), and I need not repeat what is there stated. The quantity of juice which may be obtained from any single fruit is very abundant ; it looks like thick cream. If mixed slowly and gradually with hot water, it forms an equal milky-looking fluid : if the water is poured suddenly on it, without stirring, the juice coagulates, and floats on the top ; in both cases a considerable portion separates from the water, after remaining at rest for a quarter of an hour. The pure juice, or the cut fruit, rubbed on the skin, or chewed, excoriates and blisters the parts, and it feels hot to the taste, like chillies.

The dose varies with the age of the patient. To a child under ten years, a teaspoonful will be sufficient ; above that age, from a dessert to a tablespoonful is the dose. The juice (in whatever quantity is deemed requisite) is first mixed up with some honey, and generally a tablespoonful of boiling water slowly added. The part that coagulates and floats, is by some removed ; but I have given it as often with as without this scum, and never observed any marked difference in the effects. A dose of castor oil is always given two hours after. The seeds of the fruit chewed have the same effect. The other properties of this singular tree I will not enlarge upon, farther than by confirming the reports given in botanical works, which I have often seen practised—viz. the power it has in rendering meat tender, and of inducing rapidly its passing into a state of putridity. A fowl hung to the tree under its branches, will, in a quarter of an hour, become extremely tender. If left during the night, the skin will leave the flesh, and the flesh the bones, with the least handling ; in a few hours more, every fibre will separate from another. With every description of meat these effects are striking, but with none more than with that of pigs.

The ripe fruit is not unpleasant, and is often served up at dessert. It makes an excellent preserve, and keeps well.

There is a species of the flowering ash (*Melia azedarock*) which is indigenous both at the Cape and Mauritius. The bark of the roots, infused in boiling water, and drunk fasting, is very frequently given by the planters to their slaves, for the cure of worms ; and I am assured its effects are equally certain. It is purgative at the same time, and requires no medicine, like the others, to be taken after its use. As a medicine for cattle and dogs, it is particularly safe and efficacious. I have never made use of it.

Having only been led to speak of the cure of worms, in my endeavors to investigate the causes of their prevalence, in compliance with the wishes of the Director General, contained in a late circular, it will not be deemed necessary that I should extend these remarks to the various remedies usually employed in such cases.—*London Medical Gazette.*

SYMPATHY OF THE UTERUS AND MAMMÆ.

BY EDWARD RIGBY, M.D.

THERE is, perhaps, nothing more interesting, or more worthy the attention of an accoucheur, than the various sympathies which show themselves between the uterus and other parts of the system. The morning sickness of early pregnancy ; the convulsions in the latter months, or during labor ; the violent rigors when the os uteri becomes fully dilated, or immediately after the birth of the child ; the contraction of the uterus when the face is sprinkled with cold water, or after a draught of any cold fluid ; are some of the most remarkable, among a considerable number, which occur before and during labor.

The connection, in the unimpregnated state, between the uterus and stomach, is well displayed by the gastric derangement which frequently accompanies prolapsus uteri, and *vice versâ*. The pain and swelling of the mammary gland from menstrual irritation, or where there is a subacute or chronic inflammation, or organic disease of the uterus, in like manner demonstrate the link between this organ and the breast. But the most striking instance of sympathy which I have remarked between these two organs, is the sudden and powerful contraction which is excited in the uterus, when in a state of inertia, by applying the child to the breast.

My attention was first drawn to this subject by an observation which I met with some years ago in Carus's *Gynäkologie*, recommending the application of the child to the breast to promote expulsion of the placenta where it was slow in coming away ; but I was far from being aware of the extent to which this sympathy really existed. In cases where there has been considerable disposition to hæmorrhage after labor, from non-contracted uterus, and where I have been afraid to leave the patient, lest flooding should come on in my absence, I have been for the last two years in the habit of ordering the child to be put to the breast as soon as her clothes, &c. were changed, and herself comfortably settled in bed, feeling that I thus diminished the chances there might be of any hæmorrhage occurring. It was not, however, till last year that I began to see the practical importance of this sympathetic connection between the breast and uterus in its full extent. Having had two or three cases of severe hæmorrhage after labor, from uterine inertia, which had to a degree resisted all the common modes of treatment, and where permanent contraction could not be induced even by repeated injections of cold water and vinegar into the vagina, I determined to see what effect the application of the child to the breast would have upon the relaxed uterus, and was agreeably surprised to find the observation of Professor Carus confirmed in its fullest extent, firm and permanent contraction having been immediately produced in every case.

In looking over my notes of labor cases, I find that I have only mentioned its being done in four instances, where the hæmorrhage was extremely profuse, and resisted all the other means which had been previously used ; although I recollect having applied the child to the breast in several other cases of slight hæmorrhage, which were not of sufficient in-

terest to deserve noting down. Of these I select two, which not only serve in show the severity of the hæmorrhage, but also point out another fact which is worth noticing.

Uterine Hæmorrhage checked by applying the child to the breast.

23d June, 1833.—M. R. æt. 30, delivered of a boy : sixth child. Presentation natural : labor quick. Has been always subject to hæmorrhage after labor, from inertia uteri. Was called on to deliver the placenta. The uterus was hard, but there had been profuse flooding. The placenta required a gradual but firm contracting force to bring it away : some large coagula followed. The uterus became somewhat larger, but was still hard. On pressing the fundus another large coagulum escaped. She was very faint, and vomited some pulv. sec. cornuti which I had given her. The uterus after this remained hard and small, but the most imperceptible increase of its size was followed by a discharge of blood. Water by itself, and then vinegar and water, were repeatedly thrown up the vagina ; and, as the faintness increased, brandy and ammonia were given, as occasion required. After a while, when scarcely any discharge appeared, even upon coughing or straining to vomit, a bandage, with a large compress upon the fundus, was applied round the abdomen. As, however, the discharge returned, I ordered the child to be applied to the breast, the stimulus of which immediately produced full contraction of the uterus. On changing her clothes and putting her to bed, she wandered considerably, and there was strabismus. A drachm of tinct. hyosciami, in mist. camphoræ, brought on refreshing sleep ; and she awoke some hours after, much better, but very weak. She suffered for some days from severe headache, and nearly total loss of vision, but eventually recovered.

Another Case, with an additional peculiarity.

Oct. 21, 1833.—M. L. æt. 34, delivered of a boy : third child. Presentation and labor natural. Of very unhealthy appearance. Acne of the nose and lips. Profuse hæmorrhage after labor, to which she has been also subject in her previous lyings-in. Ergot of rye, cold externally applied, and cold injections into the vagina, had no permanent effect. Another woman's child was put to her breast, but still the uterus refused to contract, but when her own was dressed and applied, permanent contraction instantly followed.

This is the only case where I have not found immediate and permanent contraction of the uterus follow the application of the child ; but I must also observe, that it is the only case where the patient's own child was not applied. I well remember that she allowed it to be placed by her side, without making the slightest attempt to assist in directing its mouth to the nipple, and scarcely even noticed it ; but the instant her own was brought, her eye brightened up, the mother's feelings were excited, and she instantly roused herself to receive it in her arms and caress it. The powers of instinct produced an involuntary stimulus to the nervous system, and called into existence that beautiful chain of sympathetic actions which is evidently intended by nature as a protection against many of those accidental causes of danger to life during the important process of parturition.

When I first began to use this plan of treatment in cases of inertia uteri after delivery, I was frequently startled by finding a sudden gush of blood, accompanied by a forcible discharge of coagula, follow almost instantly the application of the child; but soon satisfied myself, that so far from being a return of the flooding, it was merely the result of the uterus contracting firmly and expelling its contents.

It is a common saying among nurses, that "the child brings after-pains;" that is, when the child is first applied to the breast on the second or third day, as was formerly the custom, it was frequently followed by pretty smart after-pains, which evidently resulted from the uterus being excited to contract and expel any coagula of blood which might be lodging in its cavity or sinuses. Hence, besides its beneficial effects in preventing any danger from hæmorrhage, the early application of the child to the breast is a valuable means of preventing much of that uterine pain and irritation which is apt to result from the presence of coagula, &c. in the womb, after labor.

Since writing the above, my attention has been drawn to some interesting observations in the *Dublin Journal*, No. 11, by Dr. Patterson, on the Effects of Mammary Irritation in the Cure of Amenorrhœa, &c. A patient, in whom the catamenia had been wholly suppressed for two years and a half, and who had been successfully treated for an attack of fever, had been ordered a sinapism to the right side of the chest, on account of pains of an hysterical character which had presented themselves. The sinapism had been inadvertently made so large as to cover a considerable portion of the breast; much irritation, with hardness, pain, and swelling of the gland, was produced, which in the course of about 36 hours was followed by a copious discharge of the catamenia. Reasoning from the sympathetic action which exists between the breast and uterus, Dr. Patterson tried this plan of mammary irritation in another case of amenorrhœa, and with a similar result: the catamenia appeared in 24 hours from the application of the sinapism, with complete restoration of the health. These facts are not only interesting, but valuable in a practical point of view; they also confirm, in a striking manner, the observations which I have submitted, and prove that we possess, by means of stimulus applied to the breast, a powerful, and I might almost say certain, means of acting upon the uterus, where other methods have been unsuccessful.—*Ibid.*

A BATH AT A GERMAN WATERING PLACE.

THE 100th No. of the *London Quarterly Review*, which is just republished in this city, contains a very interesting review of a journal kept by "An Old Man"—a dyspeptic—who has recently visited the mineral springs of Germany. This journal has been printed for the few, and not published, under the title of "Bubbles from the Brunnens of Nassau;" and the only knowledge we shall ever get of it, is probably that now communicated through the pages of that periodical, the editor of which received permission thus to bring it before the public. Most of the extracts from this amusing journal, are such as will interest the faculty, and we shall present such parts of them as our limits will permit. At present, we offer

the author's pleasant account of his consulting a German doctor, and the remedy prescribed.

About sixty years ago, the *stahl* and *wein brunnen*s were discovered. These springs were found to be quite different from the old Roman one: it is sulphureous—they are both strongly impregnated with iron and carbonic acid gas. Instead, therefore, of merely purifying the blood, they undertook to strengthen the human frame, and in proportion as they attracted notice, so the old original brunnen became neglected. About three years ago, a fourth spring was discovered in the valley above the *wein brunnen*. It does not contain quite so much iron as the *stahl* or *wein brunnen*s, but possessing other supersalutary ingredients, (among them that of novelty,) it fixed on itself the potent patronage of Dr. Fenner. It was called Pauline after the present duchess of Nassau, as is now the fashionable brunnen or well of Langenschwalbach. The village doctors, however, disagree on this subject, and Dr. Stritter, a very mild, sensible man, recommends his patients to the strong *stahl brunnen*, almost as positively as Dr. Fenner sentences his victims to the Pauline. 'Which is right, and which is wrong,' says our indefatigable note-maker, 'is one of the mysteries of this world; but as the cunning Jews all go to the *stahl brunnen*, I strongly suspect that they have some good reason for this departure from the fashion.'

Our English journalist was much puzzled to decide among these rival brunnen, and, after having read a formidable chapter in Fenner's work on the effects of rash and unadvised water-bibbing, he concluded that it might be as well to consult a doctor before beginning.

'Having learnt that Dr. Fenner himself had the greatest number of patients, and moreover that, being a one-eyed man, he was the easiest to be found, I walked towards the shady walk near the Allee Saal, resolving eventually to consult him; however, in turning a corner, happening almost to run against a gentleman in black, "*cui lumen ademptum*;" I gravely accosted him, and finding, as I did in a moment, that I was in the right, in the middle of the street, I began to explain that he saw before him a wheel which wanted a new tire—a shoe which required a new sole, a worn-out vessel praying for the hand of the tinker—in short, that feeling very old, I merely wanted to become young again.

'Dr. Fenner is what would be called in England "a regular character," and being a shrewd, clever fellow, he evidently finds it answer, and endeavors to maintain a singularity of manner, which with his one eye (the other having been extinguished in a college duel) serves to bring himself into general notice. As soon as my gloomy tale was concluded, the Doctor, who had been walking at my side, stopped dead short, and when I turned round to look for him, there I saw him, with his right arm extended, the fore-finger and thumb clenched, as if holding snuff, and the other three digits horizontally extended like the hand of a direction-post. With his heels together, he stood as lean and as erect as a ramrod, the black patch, which like a hatchment hung over the window of his departed eye, being supported by a ribband wound diagonally round his head. "Monsieur!" said he (for he speaks a little French), "Monsieur," he repeated, "*à six heures du matin, vous prendrez à la Pauline trois verres!—trois verres à la Pauline!*" he repeated. "*A dix heures, vous prendrez un bain—en sortant du bain, vous prendrez* (he paused, and after several seconds of deep thought, he added) *encore deux verres—et*

à cinq heures du soir, Monsieur, vous prendrez (another long pause) . . . encore trois verres !! Monsieur, ces eaux vous feront beaucoup de bien ! ” The arm of this sibyl now fell to his side, like the limb of a telegraph which has just concluded its intelligence. The doctor made me a low bow, spun round upon his heel—“and so he vanished.”

‘I had not exactly bargained for bathing in, as well as drinking, the waters ; however, feeling in good humor with the little world I was inhabiting, I was willing to go with (i. e. into) its stream, and as I found that almost every visiter was daily soaked for an hour or two, I admitted that what was good for such geese might also answer for the gander ; and that, at all events, a bath would have the advantage of drowning for me one hour per day, in case I should find four and twenty of such visiters more than I wanted.’—*Bubbles*, pp. 85-87.

‘As soon as I was ready to enter the bath, the first feeling which crossed my mind, as I stood shivering on the brink, was a disinclination to dip even the foot into a mixture which looked about as thick as a horse-pond, and about the color of mullagitawny soup : however, having come to Langenschwalbach, there was nothing to say but “en avant,” and so, descending the steps, I got into stuff so deeply colored with the red oxide of iron, that the body, when a couple of inches below the surface, was invisible. The temperature of the water felt neither hot nor cold, but I was no sooner immersed in it, than I felt it was evidently of a strengthening, bracing nature, and almost might one have fancied oneself lying with a set of hides in a tan-pit. The half hour which every day I was sentenced to spend in this red decoction was by far the longest in the twenty-four hours, and I was always very glad when the chronometer, which I had hung on a nail before my eyes, pointed permission to extricate myself from the mess. While the body was floating, hardly knowing whether to sink or swim, it was very difficult for the mind to enjoy any sort of recreation, or to reflect for two minutes on any one subject ; and, as half shivering I lay watching the minute-hand of the dial, it appeared the slowest traveller in existence.’—*Bubbles*, pp. 172, 173.

The Journalist goes on, truly enough, to state that these baths are very apt to produce headache, sleepiness, and other slight apoplectic symptoms ; but that such effects entirely proceed from the silly habit of not immersing the head. The frame of man has beneficently been made capable of existing under the line, or near either of the poles of the earth ; we know it can even exist in an oven in which meat is baking ; but surely if it were possible to send one half of the body to Iceland, while the other was sitting on the banks of Fernando Po, the trial would be exceedingly severe, inasmuch as nature, never having contemplated such a vagary, has not thought it necessary to provide against it. Even the common pressure of water on the portion of the body which is immersed in it tends to push the blood towards that part (the head) which happens to be enjoying a rarer medium : but when it is taken into calculation that the mineral mixture of Schwalbach acts on the body, not only mechanically, by pressure, but medicinally, being a very strong astringent—there needs no wizard to account for the unpleasant sensations so often complained of. ‘For myself,’ says our traveller, ‘I resolved that my head should fare alike with the rest of my system ; in short, that it deserved to be strengthened as much as my limbs. It was equally old, had accompanied them in all their little troubles, and, moreover, often and often, when they had sunk down to rest, had it been forced to contemplate and pro-

vide for the dangers and vicissitudes of the next day, I therefore applied no half remedy, submitted to no partial operation, but resolved that if the waters of Langenschwalbach were to make me invulnerable, the box which held my brains should humbly, but equally, partake of the blessing.' When the reasons which had induced our author thus to immerse not only his *trunk* but his *box* were mentioned to the doctor whom he had consulted, he made no objection, but in silence shrugged up his shoulders. The fact is, in this instance, as well as in many others, the most skilful physician is obliged to prescribe no more than human nature is willing to comply with. German gentlemen are not much in the habit of washing their heads, and even if they were, they would certainly refuse to dip their curls into a mixture which stains them a deep red color, upon which common soap has not the slightest detergent effect. One has only to look at the flannel dresses which hang in the yard to dry, to understand the whole case as to the fair sex. These garments having been several times immersed in the bath, are stained as deep a red as if they had been rubbed with ochre or brick-dust, yet the upper part of the flannel is quite as white as ever—indeed, by comparison, appears infinitely whiter; in short, without asking to see the owners, it must be quite evident that at Schwalbach, young ladies, or even old ones, could never make up their minds to stain any part of their fabric which towers above the evening gown,—and that it would be useless for any poor doctor to prescribe for *them* more than a pie-bald application of his remedy. Although, of course, in coming out of the bath the patient rubs himself dry, and, apparently, perfectly clean, yet the rust, by exercise, comes out again profusely—nay, the very bed-linen is discolored; and if the head has been immersed, the pillow in the morning looks as if a rusty thirteen inch shell had been reposing on it.

'To the servant who has cleaned the bath, filled it, and supplied it with towels, it is customary to give each day six kreutzers, amounting to two-pence; and, as another example of the cheapness of German luxuries, I may observe, that if a person chooses, instead of walking, to be carried in a sedan chair, and brought back to his *hof*, the price fixed for the two journeys is—three-pence!

'Having now taken the bath, the next part of the daily sentence was "to return to the place from whence you came," and there to drink two more glasses of water from the Pauline. The weather having been unusually hot, in walking to the bath I was generally very much overpowered by the heat of the sun, but on leaving the bath to walk to the well I always felt as if his rays were not as strong as myself; one really fancied that they glanced from the frame as from a polished cuirass. The glass of cold water which, under the mid-day sun, I received after quitting the bath, from the healthy-looking old goddess of the Pauline, was delicious beyond the powers of description. It was infinitely more refreshing than iced soda water; and the idea that it was doing good instead of harm—that it was medicine, not luxury—added to it a flavor which the mind, as well as the body, seemed to enjoy. What with the iron in my skin, and the warmth which this strengthening mixture imparted to my waistcoat, I always felt an unconquerable inclination to face the hill again.'—*Bubbles*, p. 182.

We have no room for the author's account of his dinner, which, during the fashionable season at Langenschwalbach, is in readiness at 1 o'clock; and shall conclude our extracts at present with the following picture.

'It being yet only three o'clock in the day, and as people did not begin to drink the waters again until about six, there was a long, heavy interval, which was spent very much in the way in which English cows pass their time, when, quite full of fine red clover, bending their fore knees, they lie down on the grass to ruminate.

'As it was very hot at this hour, the ladies, in groups of two, three, and four, with coffee before them, on small square tables, sat out together in the open air, under the shade of the trees. Most of them commenced knitting; but at this plethoric hour one could not help observing that they made several hundred times as many stitches as remarks. A few of the young men, with cigars in their mouths, meandered in dandified silence through these parties of ladies; but almost all the German lords of the creation hid themselves in holes and corners to enjoy smoking their pipes—and surely nothing can be more filthy, nothing can be a greater waste of time and intellect, than this horrid habit. If tobacco were even a fragrant perfume, instead of stinking as it does, still the habit which makes it necessary to a human being to carry a large bag in one of his coat-pockets and an unwieldy crooked pipe in the other, would be unmanly: besides creating an artificial want, it encumbers him with a real burden, which, both on horseback and on foot, impedes his activity and his progress; but when it turns out that this said artificial want is a nasty, vicious one,—when it is impossible to be clean if you indulge in the habit,—when it makes your hair and clothes smell most loathsomely,—when you absolutely pollute the fresh air as you pass through it,—when, besides all this, it corrodes the teeth, injures the stomach, and fills with red inflammatory particles the naturally cool, clear, white brain of man,—it is quite astonishing that these Germans, who can act so sensibly during so many hours of the day, should not have strength of mind enough to trample their tobacco bags under their feet, throw their reeking sooty pipes behind them, and learn (I will not say from the English, but from every bird and animal in a state of nature) to be clean; though certainly, whatever faults there may be in our manners, our cleanliness is a virtue, which, above every nation I have ever visited, pre-eminently distinguishes us in the world. During the time which was spent in this stinking vice, I observed that people neither interrupted each other nor did they very much like to be interrupted,—in short, it was a sort of siesta with the eyes open, and with smoke coming out of the mouth. Sometimes, gazing out of the window of his hof, we saw a German baron in a tawdry dressing-gown and scull-cap (with an immense ring on his dirty fore-finger), smoking, and pretending to be thinking; sometimes we minded a creature, who, in a similar attitude, was seated on the shady benches near the Stahl brunnen; but these were exceptions to the general rule, for most of the males had vanished, we knew not where, to convert themselves into automatons which had all the smoky nuisance of the steam-engine without its power.'—*Bubbles*, pp. 216—219.

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 BOSTON, APRIL 30, 1834.

UTERINE SYMPATHY.

We ask the particular attention of the reader to the paper we have placed on a previous page, relating to the sympathy of the uterus with the mammary glands. It contains some statements of great practical importance, and we hope our professional brethren will inform us, at some future day, how far these statements correspond with their own experience. That "nursing makes after-pains" is familiar to all nurses, who certainly have the best means of acquiring correct knowledge on this subject. The application which Dr. Rigby has made of this knowledge to a most important purpose, is certainly reasonable, and may prove to be a notable advance in medical science.

THE YOUNG MAN'S GUIDE.

We have read with some care and much pleasure a small volume bearing the above title, the second edition of which is now from the press of Lilly & Wait. It contains directions to young men respecting the proper government of their minds, bodies, and estates. Of the advice concerning business, much will be especially useful to those entering the medical profession, and to those commencing life as spiritual teachers. That part of the work particularly which treats of the time of beginning to act on individual responsibility, will apply with great force to the physician and the divine; and were the advice more generally followed, we should see more health in the community, and more grey heads in our pulpits.

As a guide to that course of conduct in the early part of life, which will lead to the formation and preservation of a good constitution and good health, this work will be of incalculable value to all who abide by its directions; and we commend to the especial notice of young men the remarks on Industry—Early Rising—Habits of Temperance—Suppers—Bathing and Cleanliness—On Gaming—The Theatre—The Use of Tobacco—Recreations—Marriage—and the most excellent and much needed chapter on the various forms of licentiousness, and their effects in producing disease and shortening life. We would gladly offer a portion of the excellent advice given on these topics, but as our limits will not permit, we will solicit the aid of the profession in the general diffusion among the young men of our country, of a work that must contribute greatly to the preservation of their health, as well as to their general improvement, success, and usefulness.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS FOR A YOUNG PHYSICIAN'S LIBRARY.

THE following catalogue, prepared by an eminent practitioner and Professor of medicine, but not designed for publication, has been sent us by a valued correspondent, who has assumed the responsibility of offering it to the profession without the knowledge of the author, who can doubtless have no objection to thus adding to the obligations already conferred by him on the younger members of the faculty.

1. *Medical Dictionaries.*

Hooper's Medical Dictionary, 2 vols. 8vo.
Forsyth's London Medical and Surgical Dictionary, 1 vol. thick 12mo.
Parr's Medical Dictionary, 2 vols. 4to.

2. *Chemistry.*

Thomson's System of Chemistry, 2 vols. 8vo.
Silliman's Elements of Chemistry, 2 vols. 8vo.
L. C. Beck's Manual of Chemistry, 1 vol. 12mo.

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A. Richard's Elements of Botany, 1 vol. 8vo.
Lindley's Introduction to the Natural System of Botany, 1 vol. 8vo.
Rennie's Alphabet of Botany [Lond. Ed.], 1 vol. 8vo.

4. *Botany—Descriptive—American.*

Torrey's Flora of the Northern and Middle States [of North America], 2 vols. 8vo.
Elliott's Sketch of the Botany of S. Carolina and Georgia, 2 vols. 8vo.
Bigelow's Florula Bostoniensis, 1 vol. 8vo.
L. C. Beck's Botany of the Northern and Middle States [of North America], 1 vol. 12mo.
Eaton's Manual of Botany [for North America], 1 vol. thick 12mo.

5. *Botany—Descriptive—Universal.*

Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis, Auctore Augusto-Pyramo De Candolle, 7 or 8 vols. 8vo.
Systema Vegetabilium. Curante Curtio Sprengel, 5 vol. 8vo.
Systema Vegetabilium. Curantibus Joanne-Jacobo Roemer, Josepho-Augusto Schultes, Curtio Sprengel and Julio Hermann. Schultes. Between 30 and 40 vols. 8vo.

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Wistar's Descriptive Anatomy, 2 vols. 8vo. [*Not so good as Cloquet's*].
Godman's Bell's [Descriptive and Physiological] Anatomy, 2 vols. 8vo.
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Andral's Pathological Anatomy, 2 vols. 8vo.
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Liston's Elements of Surgery, 3 parts, i. e. 3 thin vols. 8vo.; total of pages 1061. [*Recommended by Professor Hubbard.*]
Tyrrell's Sir Astley Cooper's Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Surgery, 3 vols. 8vo.
Tavernier's Elements of Operative Surgery, 1 vol. 8vo.
Reese's Cooper's Dictionary of Surgery, 2 vols. 8vo.

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Ryan's Manual of Midwifery, 1 vol. thick and large 12mo. pages 731.
Velpéau's Tocology, 1 vol. 8vo.
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- Anthony Todd Thomson's Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, 2 vols. 8vo.
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Togno's and Durand's Edwards's and Vavasseur's Materia Medica and Pharmacy, 1 vol. 8vo.
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Eberle's Materia Medica, 2 vols. 8vo.
Chapman's Materia Medica and Therapeutics, 2 vols. 8vo.
B. S. Barton's Collections towards an Essay for a Materia Medica of the United States of North America, 1 vol. 8vo.

12. *Medical Botany and Materia Medica.*

- Stephenson's, Churchill's [and Burnett's] Medical Botany [and Materia Medica] of the London, Dublin, and Edinburgh Pharmacopœias, [] vols. 8vo. [*Very fine.*]
Woodville's Medical Botany [and Materia Medica], 4 vols. 4to.
Bigelow's American Medical Botany [and Materia Medica], 3 vols. imp. 8vo.
W. P. C. Barton's [Medical Botany and] Vegetable Materia Medica of the United States, 2 vols. 4to.
Rafinesque's Medical Flora, 2 vols. 12mo.

13. *Dispensatories.*

- Duncan's Edinburgh Dispensatory [last edition], 1 vol. 8vo.
Anthony Todd Thomson's London Dispensatory [last edition], 1 vol. 8vo.

14. *Pharmacopœias.*

- N. B. The best in the preceding Dispensatories.

15. *Nosology.*

- Good's Physiological System of Nosology, 1 vol. 8vo.
Culleni Synopsis Nosologiæ Methodicæ, 2 vol. 8vo.

16. *Principles and Practice of Medicine.*

- Good's Study of Medicine, 4th American [Boston] Edition of 1826, 5 vols. 8vo.
Copland's Dictionary of Practical Medicine, 8vo.
Cullen's First Lines of Practice, 2 vols. 8vo.
Darwin's Zoönomia, 2 vols. 8vo.
Rush's Medical Inquiries and Observations, 2 vols. 8vo.
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Wilson Philip's Treatise on Febrile Diseases [1st American Edition, Hartford, 1809], 2 vols. 8vo.

18. *Medical Jurisprudence.*

Paris's Medical Jurisprudence.

T. R. Beck's Elements of Medical Jurisprudence, 2 vols. 8vo.

Ryan's Medical Jurisprudence.

Tracts on Medical Jurisprudence [collected by Thomas Cooper, M.D.], 1 vol. 8vo.

19. *Periodicals.*

James Johnson's Medico-Chirurgical Review, 8vo. quarterly.

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, 8vo. weekly.

Journal of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, 8vo. quarterly.

Loudon's Magazine of Natural History, 8vo. every two months.

CASE OF *ÆTRESIA VAGINÆ*.

Mrs. E., aged twenty-eight, who had been married two years and a half, was brought to bed about Easter, 1831, with a stillborn child. The fetus had remained two days and nights in the passage before her delivery, but no instruments had been employed. She lay most terribly bruised for ten days, and could only attempt to move fourteen days afterwards; coition after this was very painful, and, about midsummer, was obliged to be altogether abstained from. At this period her sufferings began to increase; she experienced severe pains in the loins and abdomen, dragging pains down her thighs, difficulty in voiding the feces or urine, and a continual sense of burning in the region of the bladder, at the same time accompanied with all the usual sufferings of hysteric and dyspeptic affections. The catamenia had never returned since her last accouchement, notwithstanding she experienced all the usual feelings about the menstrual period. She had hitherto, although with difficulty, been able to attend to her wonted occupations, and after having, in vain, consulted the wives and practitioners in her neighborhood, consulted Dr. Kühner, August 10, 1832.

On examination it appeared that the vagina was closed half an inch above the left inner labium. The feel was such as to give the idea of a retroverted uterus, and upon a strict examination, as far as could be effected per vaginam and rectum, such a state could not be ascertained, although the rectum was evidently pressed upon by the body of some large tumor which occupied the whole abdomen. Upon further inspection of the external parietes of the abdomen, Dr. K. could perceive the uterus to be about its size at the fifth month of pregnancy, lying towards the right side, yet without the fundus having the firmness of a pregnant uterus. It was hence, therefore, evident that it could not be retroverted; yet, here was occlusion of the vagina, and amenorrhœa without pregnancy. These points served as a guide, and proved that the vagina had become closed from disease, but to what extent was difficult to ascertain. Dr. K. therefore determined, as the safest procedure, to introduce a trocar, as in paracentesis, which, having first defended the meatus and urethra, he carefully plunged into the thickened portion of the closed vagina.

The instrument entered with some difficulty, until, after a little progress, it proceeded quite easily. The stilet being now withdrawn, and the canula carefully kept in its place, a quantity of black liquid, of the consistence of tar, issued forth, to the amount of about three pounds, after which it became thinner. The canula was then withdrawn and the puncture enlarged with the blunt-pointed bistoury, until the opening was brought to its natural dimensions. An examination was then made, and the superior parts of the vagina were found greatly distended, the uterus, with the os tincæ, relaxed and gaping, lying very high up against the sacrum; the rectum was found released from its pressure, and in good order; much thin bloody fluid kept flowing, and the division of the vagina was found to have been through a hard ligamentous cicatrix, of about a line in thickness.

The patient, after recovering from fainting, expressed herself quite easy and relieved from all her sufferings. A pledget of oiled lint was introduced between the divided parts, and a T bandage applied. After five days the woman was quite recovered.

Dr. K. concludes, by stating that this case must have been the consequence of some mortification of the parietes of the vagina having resulted from the long pressure of the child for 48 hours, and that sloughing and subsequent cicatrization had followed, which will account for all the symptoms. He also remarks that it is fortunate the urethra and bladder escaped, which would, if implicated, have left worse consequences.

Siebold's Journal für Geburtshülfe.

Sulphurous Baths in Chorea.—M. Baudelocque gives the following account of a treatment of chorea. Desirous to know the value of the principal remedies hitherto employed for the cure of chorea, I practised bleedings, purgatives, the subcarbonate of iron, and Meglin's pills. Perceiving no amelioration in the state of five young girls afflicted with chorea, that were subjected to these modes of treatment, I added, with as little success, a warm bath every morning. I then thought of cold baths; but I considered it cruel and dangerous in such weather (the month of November) to inflict such a remedy on children. Before having recourse to it, the idea struck me to try whether sulphurous baths might not be advantageously substituted. My five patients were cured with astonishing rapidity. Their beds were soon occupied by other chorea patients, and sulphurous baths exclusively applied were equally satisfactory in the result. During five months 27 patients were placed under their influence, and 25 of them were cured. The efficacy of this mode of treatment and the facility of its administration induced several of my friends to use it. M. Bouneau employed it in cases of boys, but I am not aware of the results. M. Baffos prescribed it last March to two girls, and both were cured. M. Guersent has also witnessed its good effects. In one case, wherein the most eminent practitioners of Paris had failed, 22 sulphurous baths were entirely successful. I have only seen them fail in one case, which remains in *statu quo*, spite of the application of every known means. The baths are ordered every day except Sunday; the time for remaining in them is about an hour. No restriction as to diet is necessary.

Bullet. Gen. de Therap.

Erysipelas.—It is curious enough, that the treatment of erysipelas by stimulants, such as the nitrate of silver, blisters, &c. lately introduced

into British practice, is employed also by the Turkish common people, who, however, use a stimulant of a different nature, namely, heat. Some spread a silk handkerchief tightly over the affected part, and cover it with very porous shreds of cotton, which they set fire to; they are consumed, but the handkerchief escapes, and during the combustion of the wool a sensation of heat and pain is felt in the erysipelatous portion of the skin: others prefer puncturing the erysipelas in many points, with sharp spiculae of wood, and immediately applying to each puncture the point of a burning stick. Dr. Oppenheim asserts, that he has seen both these methods successfully employed, for the purpose of fixing the erysipelas, by which, of course, he means that the disease was prevented from spreading.

Edinburgh Philosophical Journal.

Predisposition to Cerebral Congestion during Pregnancy.—M. Maygrier, in a memoir read to the Society, advances the opinion that pregnancy predisposes to cerebral congestions—not to apoplexy, nor to hypertrophy of the heart. During gestation, the circulation is notably lowered for the first months, becoming accelerated only after the fifth month. There might then be plethora, or threatenings of cerebral congestion; but blood-letting always dispelled either. During delivery, phenomena, simulating apoplexy, frequently make their appearance, in which cases the forceps are of more avail than the lancet. M. Maygrier concluded by observing that the causes and curative means of sanguineous congestion, occurring to women during travail, differ from those of apoplexy.—*Jour. Med.*

Dislocation of the Humerus backwards.—M. Sedillot, surgeon at the Val de Grace, has met with a case of luxation of the humerus backwards into the fossa infra spinata, which was reduced a year and fifteen days after the accident took place. This dislocation is so rare, that Desault never saw a case, and Boyer mentions only one.

London Medical and Surgical Journal.

Scarlatina in Ohio.—We learn from a correspondent in Madison, Ohio, that the scarlet fever, now prevailing in that vicinity, is of unusual severity, and often fatal in a few hours after the attack.

We regret to say that Dr. Hooker has not recovered from a severe sickness, sufficiently to resume his professional labors. Our readers may therefore enjoy still longer in anticipation the continuation of his papers on Auscultation.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending April 25, 23. Males, 15—Females, 8. Of pleurisy, 1—erysipelas, 1—consumption, 6—nervous fever, 1—convulsions, 1—infantile, 3—cancer, 1—liver complaint, 1—croup, 1—inflammation on the lungs, 2—lung fever, 1—old age, 1—tumor, 1—jaundice, 1—teething, 1.

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Feb 19

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